

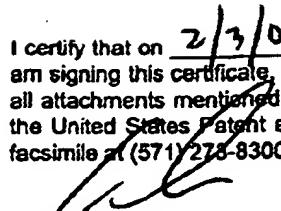
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Docket No. 015916-261

I certify that on 2/3/04, which is the date I am signing this certificate, this correspondence and all attachments mentioned are being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by facsimile at (571) 273-8300.


Craig A. Slavin**Applicant: Bencini****Serial No.: 09/548,465****Filing Date: April 13, 2000****Title: Steerable Device For Introducing
Diagnostic And Therapeutic Apparatus****Into The Body****Group Art Unit: 3763****Examiner: Sirmons****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-SB08 are being brought to the attention of the examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of the cited documents are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the examiner indicate consideration of the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO-SB08 with initials or other appropriate marks, and that the references be made of record as cited references in the application.

Applicant hereby certifies that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in Section

Serial No. 09/548,465

Docket No. 015916-261

1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.¹

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

2/3/06
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Craig A. Slavin
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Attorney for Applicant

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¹ Applicant respectfully submits that, even if the application upon which the cited US Patent is based was known to applicant, the US Patent itself could not have been known to applicant prior to the issue date. Should the Examiner disagree with this analysis, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative to discuss this matter further.